



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

## Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee (TSB)

October 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Room 8, Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Pkwy

Fairfax, VA 22035

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Howard Albers, Secretary

### Members Present:

Ken Comer (At Large/Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/Vice-Chair), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Jim Corcoran (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builder's Industry Association) James Albright (Mason District), Erin Parlan (Franconia District), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society and Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District).

### Members Absent:

Tyler Schiefelbein (Springfield), Brooks Stephens (Providence District) Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District),

**Others in Attendance:** Nicole Wynands (FCDOT), Michael Guarino (FCDOT), Karen L Jones (Fairfax Trails and Streams), and Bill Niedringhaus (Potomac Heritage Trail Association).

**Call to Order:** Ken Comer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jim Klein asked that the spelling of his last name be corrected in the Pedestrian Safety Letter section of the minutes from September 13, 2023. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with the requested correction. The motion was approved.

A question was raised if FCDOT staff should provide printed copies of the minutes for committee members to review. It was decided that members who wanted a printed copy of the minutes should print and review them prior to attending the TSB meeting.

### Presentation:

Michael Guarino from the Fairfax County Department of Transportation presented information on the 2023-2024 Active Transportation Projects and Prioritization Process. Mr. Guarino said

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details of the process could be found at [Active Transportation Project Prioritization for Funding | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/active-transportation/projects/prioritization). The universe of 2,800 improvement projects has been reviewed and more analysis was done on 330 projects. For the first time, with the help of a consultant, FCDOT developed numerical scores rating each project on the **need** for access to safe active transportation facilities, and the **demand** for improvements in areas of population density, employment density, transit stops, educational institutions, parks, regional trails, and public facilities.

Mr. Guarino explained it is the custom in Fairfax County that projects are grouped by county district rather than being grouped on a numerical rating score. The staff will also consider many qualitative factors, views of the public, environmental impacts, and costs before recommending a list to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Guarino commented that the Mason District has projects with very high needs and the Providence District has projects with high demands. A committee member commented that it sounds like the same process that has been used for the last 30 years. Mr. Guarino said the Board of Supervisors can make changes to the prioritization process and will make the final project decisions. The goal is to have a list of recommended projects available so the Board can decide on improvements at their December 5, 2023, meeting.

#### **Discussions:**

**Parking Reimagined:** Nicole Wynands reported that effective January 1, 2024, the county parking ordinance will include bicycle parking requirements. The FCDOT bicycle parking guidelines are being revised and will soon be sent to stakeholders for review. The plan is to have the revised guidelines completed shortly after the bike ordinance becomes effective.

**TSB Priorities** Discussions about TSB priorities were delayed until a later time due to the number of items on the agenda.

**Staff Report:** Nicole Wynands reported that since the Spring of 2022 the active transportation team has been gathering locations for an active transportation network, developed a Vision, Goals and Objectives for Active Transportation in Fairfax County document, and recommended steps for a future Safe Streets for All Program. Funding and staffing is needed before the Safe Streets for All Program can begin. Work on the ActiveFairfax project is continuing. During the spring or summer of 2024, FCDOT plans to contact the established working groups and seek public comments on the project. By the end of 2024 or early 2025, FCDOT plans to have an active transportation facility selection tool kit describing facility types and appropriate application, an active transportation and trail network map, policy recommendations and program recommendations.

Ms. Wynands reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the TSB Committee appointments for Howard Albers, Jim Corcoran, and Shawn Newman.

Committee members raised questions about the construction and maintenance status of the I-66 Parallel Trail. Trail users reported they road on the trail since there were no “Trail Closed Signs”.

VDOT has not notified the public about the construction delays. Nicole Wynands said she would pass on the comments to the VDOT staff.

**Public Comments:** Karen Jones and Bill Niedringhaus requested clarification about how trail routes for the Potomac Heritage Scenic Trail are determined. Nicole Wynands explained that designating a federal trail route requires a feasibility study so the best route can be selected. The selection process is detailed and may take up to 15 months. Funding for the study is provided by the National Park Service with a 20% contribution by Fairfax County. The study is administered by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Funding to cover the Fairfax County portion will need to be identified.

Nicole Wynands also mentioned that on October 11, 2023, [Board of Supervisors October 10, 2023 Final Package \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#) (beginning on page 413) the Board of Supervisors approved the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Superintendent of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. Jim Corcoran agreed to arrange a meeting with Karen Jones and Bill Niedringhaus to discuss the best route for the trail.

**Upcoming Presentations:** The following topics were suggested for the next TSB committee meeting:

- Annandale Greenway
- Process for nominating unfunded bike ped improvements in future county bond referenda
- Turn calming programs for bicycle and pedestrian safety
- Directional and safety signage on park authority trails. Jim Corcoran said he would have an update at the next TSB committee meeting.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the TSB Committee on November 8, 2023.